AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A transgenic mouse ~~in contact with~~ **comprising** a suspected modulator of ~~effects associated with congenital heart disease~~ **the development of atrioventricular septal defects**, wherein the genome of said mouse comprises a heterozygous disruption of the CCN1 gene.

2. (Original) The mouse of claim 1, wherein said mouse is predisposed to atrioventricular septal defects.

3. (Original) The mouse of claim 1, wherein said mouse has atrioventricular septal defects.

4. (Original) The mouse of any of claims 1-3, wherein said mouse is an embryo.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) A method of producing a mouse with atrioventricular septal defects, comprising:

(a) producing a transgenic mouse whose genome comprises a heterozygous disruption of the CCN1 gene;

(b) testing the transgenic mouse for the presence of a phenotype associated with atrioventricular septal defects; and

(c) ~~isolating~~ **identifying** a transgenic mouse that has a phenotype associated with atrioventricular septal defects.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) A method of identifying a mouse with atrioventricular septal defects, comprising testing a transgenic mouse whose genome comprises a heterozygous disruption of the CCN1 gene for the presence of a phenotype associated with atrioventricular septal defects.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A method of identifying a modulator of ~~symptoms associated with~~ **the development of** atrioventricular septal defects, comprising:

(a) contacting a **plurality of** transgenic mouse **embryos with a suspected modulator, wherein the genome of each of said embryos** ~~whose genome~~ comprises a heterozygous disruption of the *CCN1* gene ~~with a suspected modulator~~;

(b) measuring **[[a]]** phenotype**s** associated with atrioventricular septal defects **in said transgenic mouse embryos or in postnatal mice arising therefrom** ~~whereby a modulator is identified by altering the phenotype in comparison to a control.~~**; and**

(c) calculating the percentage of said embryos or said postnatal mice displaying at least one of said phenotypes, wherein a percentage of said embryos or said postnatal mice displaying at least one of said phenotypes above or below 65% identifies a modulator.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Original) A method of identifying an animal that is predisposed to atrioventricular septal defects, comprising detecting the presence of an alteration in one or more alleles of the *CCN1* gene in a sample comprising DNA isolated from said animal.